

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL INFLUENCES ON ROK DISSIDENT GROUPS

REF: SEOUL 6018

1. THE DECLARATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL ALLIANCE (REFTEL) IS BUT THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CONFRONTATIONAL MANIFESTOS BY ROK DISSIDENT GROUPS. IN ONE SENSE IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HISTORIC PATTERN OF HIGHLY CONFRONTATIONAL AND CONDEMNATIONAL RHETORIC BY KOREAN OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. HOWEVER, WE ALSO NOTE A MARKED DEGREE OF DISTORTION OF THE ECONOMIC SCENE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NORTH KOREAN BUZZ WORDS IN SOME INSTANCES.

2. WHEN FEASIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN ANALYSIS BY THE EMBASSY OF THE POLITICAL FORCES AND INFLUENCES ON THE DISSIDENT GROUPS AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT DANGER OF NORTH KOREAN MANIPULATION OR EXPLOITATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGITIMATE PROTEST SENTIMENT. GIVEN THE MOOD OF THE ROKG, WE FEAR THAT THE RHETORIC OF THIS AND SOME OTHER PREVIOUS MANIFESTOS WOULD OFFER PRETEXT FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST PROSECUTIONS. BEFORE THE NEXT CONFRONTATION OCCURS, WE NEED A BETTER INSIGHT IF POSSIBLE INTO THE POLITICAL FORCES WORKING BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE ANTI-YUSHIN CAMPAIGN. CHRISTOPHER

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